

Any farmer who will estimate the profit of 1000 sheep, will find the East Tennessee has it in her power to rival in profits the cotton planter, by pursuing the pastoral life, the easiest, most innocent, and delightful, man can enjoy.

Mixtures of the Saxon with our common stock, will enable the people of Tennessee so furnish to the manufacturer, wool suited for the varieties of fabrics made from that staple, and manufactories will spring up every where, provided wool can be had.

While we are improving the breeds of other stock, let us not neglect the Sheep.

The investment of a small capital, will lay the ground work of handsome profits to the adventurers; and considering his own profits, he will also have the consolation of knowing that he is doing something for his country.

Without being too sanguine, we may look forward to the time not remote when our hills and mountain slopes, (now esteemed of little value) will teem with flocks and herds.

Improvements are upon the advance; let us keep pace with them in every thing; each improvement in the products of our country is a source of national independence; was es should be changed into fields—our waterfalls made to perform the labor of thousands, encouraging the arts—and thus by the many means in our power turning the balance of trade in our favor.

A FARMER.

MORUS MULTICAULIS—SILK.

Although the manufacture of silk has received some attention in this country, especially in industrious New England, yet nothing, comparatively speaking has been done towards the establishment of this lucrative branch of domestic economy. The present season seems to be the era of its general commencement, and in ten years from today, we expect to see the profits of the mulberry and silkworm a principal item in the national revenue and wealth. The introduction of the M. Multicaulis, about four years ago, promises a rich harvest to the silk culturist, and every man in North Carolina who owns an acre of land, and wishes to make the most of it, will consult his interest by purchasing and cultivating this new source of wealth. Thus far, the Multicaulis has principally, been confined to reproduction, as a ready sale high prices render the trees as profitable as can reasonably be desired; and such will be the case for a year or two till their general diffusion throughout the country shall have closed the market; but after that time, they will continue an inexhaustible source of large profits on light labour and small capital.—To the poorer classes of industrious citizens, this new branch of business will be invaluable.—An intelligent gentleman, who is apparently conversant with the subject, writing from Philadelphia to a friend in New Orleans gives the following information.

"The advantages of the Morus Multicaulis is this—our fourth to one sixth the hands will do to feed worms less than with white mulberry. The leaves of the Morus Multicaulis are 9 by 12 inches in size, or about ten times larger than the white. Mr. Smith of Baltimore, says one acre will feed one million of worms. Mr. Carry says, half an acre a million. A million of worms, well fed, will give 400 lbs. reeled, which sells readily at \$5 per lb. The reeling of any quantity can be done with machinery, which costs little. A dog, or a man power will turn 20 to 50 reels, and these will produce from three quarters to one pound of reeled silk a day. One acre and two men, or three acres and five men will produce more income than 30 to 40 acres of cotton and 12 men—that is after the first year.—In the south, where the trees grow out all winter, and the foliage remains on the trees, they grow from 8 to 12 feet high, where 4 or 5 successive crops of cocoons can be produced, by a small family of whites and colored of, say 8 or 10, with a good preparation, (and nothing conceivable is more simple or easy,) an income of from 10 to \$20,000 can easily be made.

But until the trees can be had no silk can be made. Every one, not otherwise employed, in this region, is entering into the business. The cultivation of trees has so far mainly occupied our attention. They can be raised here for 4, with you for 2 cents a tree. They command 40 to 100 cents a tree, and half the demand cannot be supplied. It is supposed, as the demand now extends into New York New Jersey Pennsylvania, Ohio Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, &c. and the voracity with which they are sought is prodigious: I say, it is supposed that next year the demand will be still greater.

In Louisiana you have only to agitate the subject, and you will go ahead. In your state, where the tree will remain in the ground all winter—here they are taken up to preserve them from the frost—they will have four months more to grow, and besides giving a tree of from 9 to 12 feet, the foliage for feeding silk worms will be proportionably greater.

I know several hundred in the business this season, not one of whom made less than 800 per cent. and many who laid out 3 or 400 dollars, and cleared 6 000 to 8,000. One man the past season on 15 acres made clear \$100,000. Immense fortunes have been made by it. No one has touched it without immense profit."

Notwithstanding the above encouragement, and the generally favourable opinion of certain success, we should advise our friends to hold back for a season, rather than pay the enormous price asked for the trees and shoots of the Multicaulis. Twelve months hence a man who asks several dollars for a switch, or ten cents for a bud, will be laughed at.—Newbern Spectator.

From the Southern Agriculturist.

THE VALUE OF IRISH POTATOES AS FOOD FOR COWS.

May, 1837.

Mr. Editor.—In your January number, I read some hints about the raising and culture of Irish Potatoes. I must add to your

own, my firm conviction, that there is no vegetable, which we can possibly cultivate, possessing so many advantages, as a food for our cattle.

In the first place, its yield is greater than almost any vegetable we can possibly cultivate. This season, I planted an acre in Irish Potatoes, after the plan laid down in my former communication. I am now digging them for my cows, and I do assure you, Mr. Editor, that it causes in them a double yield of butter and milk. My plan of feeding my cows is, to boil the potatoes, with other vegetable matter,—for instance, the potato tops, turnip tops, &c. This mash I give out to my cows, which yield fifty per cent more milk by it, than if they were turned out upon the best pasture only.

In the second place, this crop is easily attended. All the working that the potatoes need, I give them, before my hands go out to their regular morning work. But of the manner of doing this, I must refer you to my former communication.

In the third place, potatoes are the earliest root crop, that we can well have. In our climate, the land may be prepared, and planted with the Irish potato, early in February. And if the land be well manured, or covered with litter, the young plants will sustain not the least injury from frost or cold. I am, however, no great advocate for planting too early; since several years' experience has convinced me, that potatoes put into the ground early in April, will mature as soon as those put in at an earlier period.

In the fourth place, corn may be planted among potatoes, with the greatest advantage; and thus a crop of corn and potatoes may be raised on the same land, without one crop in the least injuring the other. Indeed, the potatoes shading the young corn, at an early period, will prevent its growth being retarded by cold weather; and the same working which will keep the potatoes clear of grass, will also benefit the corn.—As the potatoes are dug in, the loose earth which is pulled down from their bed, may be hauled, with great advantage, around the corn. Last year, my corn planted in this way, was decidedly the best I had in my whole field.

In the fifth and last place, you may replant the small potatoes after you have dug the larger ones; and these will yield an excellent crop for winter use. Whenever I plant corn among my potatoes, I make my potato rows five feet apart, and plant the corn in the alley of each row, at the distance of four feet from each other. In digging in my potatoes, in the spring, I place the small ones in the alley, between each hill of corn, and throw the earth from the old bed upon them, into the alley; so as to form, at the same time, a bed for the corn and young potatoes. The potatoes thus raised are excellent for winter use; and as a vegetable for the table, are equal in quality to the very best of the "Emerald Isle."

I am aware, Mr. Editor, that this communication is too late, to be of much benefit at the present season; but it may serve for future use; and may also give some hints about turning our small potatoes, which are usually thrown away, to some advantage.

From the Silk Culturist.

Hints on Feeding Horses.

In feeding horses with grain, the proper quantity of the respective kinds is regulated by weight, for in this proportion are the different kinds considered nutritious. As for example, we give to a horse per day half a bushel of oats, the weight of which is 17 lbs., and if we wish to change to other grain, as barley, rye, or Indian corn, the same weight will suffice; and as these grains are much heavier than oats, a proportionate less quantity, by measure will suffice.—Another rule, deemed important, is this, that whenever heavier grain is substituted for oats, a quantity of fine cut straw should be added, as a substitute for the husk of the oats. This induces a more perfect digestion of the grain.

The practice of giving dry grain to horses when pastured, or fed with green cut grass, is condemned; for the grain thus given, is never perfectly digested, on account of the effect of the watery juices of the grass upon digestion. When dry grain and green feed are given, as much interval should be allowed between the dry and green food as circumstances will permit.

Von Thaeer considers 8 lbs. of meadow hay equal in nourishment to 3 lbs. of oats; that hay improves by age, if well kept, and is most nutritious for horses when a year old; that the second growth is not equally nourishing; and that hay should not be unnecessarily exposed in making, the freshness of its scent being peculiarly gratifying to horses and cattle.

In Holland and Flanders, farm-horses are uniformly soiled during summer. A horse is supposed to consume from 54 to 100 lbs. of green food per day with occasional grain. An acre of clover, at two cuttings, will give twelve tons of green food; and hence half an acre of clover, fed green, will suffice for a horse four months.

It is also a general practice in Flanders, and is extensively adopted in Great Britain, to convert the entire food into munger meat, that is, to mix the cut straw and hay, the grain and the roots, or whatever is to constitute the provender for the day, and to feed altogether in the manger, in regular messes.

The value of this mode of feeding is alleged to consist:—  
"1. In its requiring a more thorough mastication of the food than when it is given in the common way, thereby assisting digestion, and consequently promoting the nutrition of the animal; for, it is not only true that old horses lose much of the power of mastication, and that young and greedy cattle are apt to devour a considerable part of their corn entire, when it is given alone, which passing through them in the same state affords no kind of nourishment, but all animals are known to derive nourishment from their solid food, in a certain degree, in proportion to the care with which it is chewed."  
"2. It is consumed in less time.

"3. By the mixture of the materials, some proportions of which, as damaged hay, or straw, might be refused if given separately, an equal consumption of the whole is secured.

"4. By its admitting of being more readily weighed, or measured, than when given separately, it can be more accurately distributed to each horse; on which it may be observed, that more injury is often done to horses by allowing them an unlimited quantity of rack-meal (uncut hay in the rack,) than even by stinting them to a scanty allowance; for they will not only pass whole nights in eating, when rest would do them more service, but, by this extraordinary distention of the stomach, its powers are weakened, and their general health is injured.

"5. It prevents waste, and consequently goes farther."

Mr. Wiggins, whose daily business extends to the feeding of three hundred horses, estimates the saving by the feeding entirely in this way, in the manger, at one sixth.

Rye is considerably employed as horse feed in America, particularly in Pennsylvania. It is generally coarsely ground, and mixed with cut straw or chaff, and moistened, by which the mass is incorporated.

Barley is extensively used in the south of Europe, in Asia Minor and in Persia, for feeding horses, for the reason, probably, that oats, being indigenous to colder climates, do not grow well in these countries. In the first of these countries it is uniformly fed with straw. Six bushels have been found, on trial, to be equal to eight bushels of oats. Barley contains twenty per cent. more starch than oats, 5 per cent. more saccharine matter, and 27 per cent. less husk.

British writers have furnished us with estimates of the annual expense of keeping farm horses. One of these before us gives the aggregate expense of a two-horse team and driver at about 90L. (\$400.) This includes the interest on the cost of the team and implements, 270L. and 10 per cent. for repairs and deterioration. We state this fact for the purpose of calling the reader's attention to it. It imports, that allowing for the days when the team cannot labor, and assuming 260 working days in a year, that a team and driver should earn more than \$1 50 a day for 260 days in a year, to pay cost; and that all they fall short in doing this, is absolutely lost to the owner. The keep, in Britain, is probably higher however, than it is with us. Yet we are persuaded that few among us duly reflect, upon the cost of maintaining a horse-team in a plight requisite for doing good service. In Britain a team of good horses is considered adequate to the cultivation of 40 to 60 acres in tillage crops."

From the Southern Agriculturist.

PROGNOSTICS OF THE WEATHER.

We copy the following prognostics of the weather from the Southern Agriculturist. It has been compiled from the writings of Lord Bacon, Rest, the Shepherd of Banbury, Worlidge, and authors of approved experience.

I. SIGNS FROM VAPOURS, OR MISTS.

- 1. If a white mist in an evening or night spread over a meadow wherein there is a river, it promises the next day to be bright.
- 2. When the mist hanging over the lower lands draws towards the hills of a morning, and rolls up their sides until the tops are covered, there will be no rain.
- 3. In some places if the mist hangs upon the hills and drags along the woods, instead of overspreading the lower ground, in a morning, it will turn to rain.
- 4. If mists rise in low grounds, and soon vanish, fair weather.
- 5. If they rise to the hill tops, rain in a day or two. (One of Mr. Worlidge's rules.)
- 6. A general mist before the sun rises near the full moon; fine weather.

II. FROM CLOUDS.

- 1. It is a symptom of fair weather when clouds dissolve into air; otherwise when they are collected out of the air.
- 2. When heavy rains are about to fall, ever cloud rises bigger than the former, and all the clouds are in a growing state.
- 3. When clouds are flaxy, deep, and dense towards the middle, and very white at the edges, with the sky very bright and blue about them, they are of a frosty coldness, and will soon fall either in hail, snow, or hasty showers of rain.
- 4. When clouds breed high in the air in thin white trains, like locks of wood or the tails of horses, there will soon be wind below and probably rain with it.
- 5. When clouds as they come forward seem to diverge from a point in the horizon, a wind may be expected from that quarter, or the opposite.
- 6. When a general cloudiness covers the sky above, and small black fragments of clouds, like smoke, fly underneath, rain is not far off, and it will probably be lasting.
- 7. No surer sign of rain than two different currents of clouds, especially if the uppermost flies fast before the wind; and if two such appear in hot summer, a thunder storm is gathering.
- 8. Clouds like large rocks; great showers.
- 9. If small clouds increase; much rain.
- 10. If large clouds decrease; fair weather.
- 11. In summer when the wind has been south two or three days, and it grows very hot, and clouds rise with white tops, like towers, as if one were on the top of another, joined together with black on the nether side, there will be thunder and rain suddenly.
- 12. If two such clouds rise one on either hand; rain.
- 13. Dappled white clouds, (called a mackerel sky) generally predict rain.
- 14. Small black clouds of a clear evening; undoubted signs of rain.
- 15. Blue or black clouds near the sun any time of the day, or near the moon by night; signs of rain.
- 16. Small waterish clouds on the tops of hills; rain.
- 17. If clouds grow or appear suddenly, the air otherwise free from clouds; tempests to hand especially if they appear to the South or West.

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18. Clouds setting on the tops of mountains: hard weather.

III. DEWS.

Dew plentifully on the grass after a fair day, foretells the next day fair; but if after such a day no dew is on the ground, and no wind stirring, rain may be expected.

IV. FROM SKIES.

- 1. Between a red evening and grey morning, is commonly a heavy dew or a mist over the ground, but if a red morning succeeds, there is no dew.
- When a lowering redness spreads too far upwards from the horizon in the morning or evening, rain or winds follow and often both.
- 3. When such a redness, together with a raggedness of the clouds, extend toward the zenith in the evening, the wind will be high from the West or South-west, with rain.
- 4. When the sky in a rainy season is tinged with a sea-green color, where it ought to be blue, the rain will continue and increase.
- 5. If it is of a deep dead blue, the weather will be showery.
- 6. A dark thick sky, lasting for some time, either without sun or rain, always becomes fair, then foul—this is, a clear sky before rain.

V. FROM SUN.

- 1. When the air is hazy, and the sun's light fades by degrees, and his orb looks whitish and ill defined; one of the certain signs of rain.
- 2. If the rays of the sun breaking through the clouds, irradiate and are visible in the air, rain very soon.
- 3. White at his setting; bad weather.
- 4. Shorn of his rays; bad weather.
- 5. Going down into a bank of clouds which lie in the horizon! bad weather.
- 6. If he rises red and fiery; wind and rain.
- 7. If he rise cloudy and clouds decrease, certain fair weather.

VI. FROM MOON.

- 1. When moon and stars grow dim, with a hazy air and ring or halo round; rain follows.
- 2. If the moon appear pale and dim, expect rain.
- 3. If red a sign of wind.
- 4. If of its natural colour, and the sky clear, fair weather.
- 5. If the moon is rainy throughout her course, it will clear up at the ensuing change, and the rain will probably commence in a few days after, and continue; if, on the contrary, the moon has been fair throughout, and it rains at the change, the fair weather will probably be restored about the fourth or fifth day of the moon, and continued as before.
- 6. If the new moon does not appear till the fourth day, a troubled air for the whole month.
- 7. If the moon, either at her first appearance or within a few days after, has her lower horn obscure or dusky, or any wise sullied, it denotes foul weather before the full.
- 8. If discoloured in the middle, storms are to be expected about the full, or about the wane, if her upper horn is affected in like manner.
- 9. When on her fourth day she appears spotted, her horns unblinded, and neither flat nor quite erect, but between both, it promises fair weather for the greatest part of the month.
- 10. An erect moon is generally threatening and unfavorable, but particularly denotes wind; though if she appear with short and blunted horns rain may rather be expected.

VII. FROM WINDS.

- 1. When the wind veers about uncertainly to several points of the compass, rain is pretty sure to follow.
- 2. Some have remarked, that if the wind, as it veers about, follows the course of the sun, from the east towards the west, it brings fair weather; if the contrary, foul; but there is no sign of rain more infallible, than a whistling or howling noise of the wind.
- 3. Wind turning to north-east, continuing there two days, without rain, and not turning south the third day, or not raising the third day, will be likely to continue north-east for eight or nine days fair, and then come south again.
- 4. If it turn again out of the south to the north-east, with rain, and continues in the north-east two days, without rain, and neither turns south nor rains the third day, it is likely to continue north-east two or three months.
- 5. After a northerly wind, for the most of two months or more, and then coming south, there are usually three or four days at first, and then on the fourth or fifth day comes rain, or else the wind turns north again, and continues dry.
- 6. If it returns to the south within a day or two, without rain, and turns northward with rain, and returns to the south in one or two days, as before two or three times together after this sort, then it is likely to be in the south two or three months together, as it was in the month before.
- 7. Fair weather for a week with a southerly wind is likely to produce a great drought, if there has been much rain out of the south before. The wind usually turns from north to south with a quiet wind with out rain; but returns to the north with a strong wind and rain. The strongest wind is, when it turns from south to north by west.
- 8. If you see a cloud rise up against the wind or with wind, when that cloud comes up to you, the wind will blow the same way the cloud came.
- 9. When the wind varies for a few hours and afterwards begins to blow constant, it will continue for many days.
- 10. Whatever wind begins to blow in the morning usually continues longer than that which rises in the evening.

11. If the wind be east or north-east in the fore part of the summer, the weather is likely to continue dry; and if westward towards the end of the summer, then it will also continue dry.

12. If in great rains the winds rise or fall, it signifies the rain will forthwith cease.

13. If the south wind begins for two or three days, the north will suddenly blow after it; but if the north blows for the same number of days, the south will not rise till after the east has blown for sometime.

14. A change in the warmth of weather is generally followed by a change of wind.

VIII. METEORS.

When meteors, or the aurora borealis, appear after some warm day, it is generally succeeded by a coldness of the air.

IX. FROM ANIMAL CREATION.

Swallows, when they fly aloft after their prey a serene sky—when they skim the ground or the water, rain not far off—their appearance, a sign of spring set in. When the notes of the whippoor will are heard, spring has set in—when sheep wind up the hills in the morning to their pastures, and feed near the top, an indication of the clearing of clouds or drizzly weather.—Dogs grow sleepy and stupid before rain, and by refusing their food and eating grass, show their stomach out of order—water fowl dive and wash themselves more than ordinarily before rain—flies are particularly troublesome, and seem more hungry than usual.—Toads are seen crawling across the road or beaten path in the evening—moles work harder than usual, and sometimes come forth; so do worms—ants are observed to stir and bustle about, and then return to their burrows—bees stir not far, and betake themselves to their hives.—swine discover uneasiness, as do likewise sheep, cows, &c. all appear more eager in pasture than usual—birds of all sorts are in action and more earnest after their prey—fleas bite harder than common—spiders crawl abroad. On the contrary, spider's webs on the trees, or in the air indicate fair and hot weather.—so do bees, when they fly far and come home late—likewise, a more than usual appearance of glow worms by night. If guns play up and down in the open air, near sunset, they presage heat; if in the shade, warm and mild showers; but if they join in singing those that pass by them, cold weather and much rain may be expected. In men frequently, aches, corns and wounds are more troublesome, either towards rain or frost. The crow cawing and walking on the seashore, or on the banks of rivers or pools, presages rain. Birds that change countries at certain seasons, if they come early, show the temper of the weather, according to the country whence they came; as winter woodcocks, pigeons, &c. if they come early, show a cold winter.

X. FROM VEGETABLE CREATION.

1. Most vegetables expand their flowers and down in sun's tiny weather, towards the evening; and against rain close them again—as in the down of Dandelion. The rule is, if the flowers are close shut up it betokens rain; if they are spread abroad, fair weather.

2. All wood, even the hardest and most solid, swells in moist weather.

3. The speedy drying of the earth's surface, is a sign of a northerly wind and fair weather; and its becoming moist, of a southerly wind, and rain.

4. When sounds are more plainly heard than usual, rain.

5. If windows or walls that used to sweat, be drier than usual in the beginning of the winter, or the caves of houses drop more slowly than ordinary, it portends a hard and frosty winter.

6. When there are but few nuts, cold and wet harvests generally follow; when a great show of them, hot and heavy harvests succeed.

7. If the oak bears much mast, it presages a long and hard winter. The same of hops and hawes.

XI. FROM RAIN.

- 1. Sudden rain never lasts long; but when the air grows thick by degrees, and the sun moon and stars shine dimmer and dimmer, it usually rains six hours.
- 2. If it begins to rain from the south with a high wind, for two or three hours, and the wind falls, but the rain continues, it is like to rain twelve hours, or more; and does usually rain until a strong north wind clears the air; these long rains seldom hold above twelve hours.
- 4. If it begins to rain an hour or two before noon and continues so that day; but if the rain begins an hour or two after sun rising, it is likely to rain all that day, unless the rainbow be seen by its rains.

XII. FROM SEASONS.

- 1. Generally a moist and cold summer portends a hard winter.
- 2. A hot and dry summer and autumn, especially if the heat and drought extend far into September, portend an open beginning of winter, and cold to succeed towards the latter part and beginning of spring.
- 3. A warm and open winter portends a hot and dry summer, for the vapours disperse into the winter showers; whereas cold and frost keep them in, and convey them to the late spring.—So saith my Lord Bacon.
- 4. A severe autumn denotes a windy winter; a rainy spring, a rainy a serene summer, a windy autumn; so that the air in a balance is seldom debtor to itself; nor do the seasons succeed each other in the same tenor for two years together. So also saith my Lord Bacon.

TREES.

Every one that has read the heart of Mid Lothian, will remember the following sentence: "Jock, when ye hae nothing else to do, ye may be aye sticking in a tree; it will beloggering, Jock, when ye're sleeping." Sir Walter Scott says somewhere that these simple words induced an Earl to plant a large tract of country, which, in such a place as England, would in a few years be of immense value. We can only repeat the advice given to Jock—let every one who has nothing else to do, be sticking in a tree; that posterity may reap the benefit of it.

From the N. Y. Bab. Register.

DANGEROUS ADVENTURE.

The annexed extract is taken from a paper in Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, entitled "Adventure in the Northwest Territory." It is a graphic description of a most thrilling scene:

After residing nearly a year in one of the most distant posts of the Northwest Company, and conducting the fur trade there, I began too long forward to my return to Montreal. I waited with the greatest impatience for the arrival of that period which was to terminate banishment and restore me to society. I was nearly three thousand miles distant from any settlements, and my only companions were but two young men, clerks in the establishment, whose characters and limited acquirements rendered them very uninteresting associates. This lake discharged itself by means of a river, into another of much greater dimensions, and thick forests covered every part of the neighboring country.

One afternoon I took my gun and strolled out in search of game. Though it was now the beginning of spring, the lake was completely frozen a mass, the cold of the preceding winter having been very intense. I soon fell in with a flock of wild ducks, but before I got a shot at them they began to fly towards the middle of the lake; however, I followed them fearlessly over the ice in the expectation that they would soon alight. The weather was mild though rather blowy. Detached black clouds moved rapidly along the face of heaven in immense masses, and the sun blazed forth in unobscured splendor, at one moment, and was completely shrouded from view in the next. I was so intent on the pursuit of my game, that I hastened forward almost unconsciously, my progress being much facilitated by a thin layer of snow which covered the ice and rendered the footing tolerably secure. At last I fired at the ducks, and killed one and wounded another. I immediately picked up the first, but its companion having only been winged, began to leap away before I caught hold of it. I followed, but had not advanced more than twenty yards when, to my astonishment, I found that the ice was in many places covered with the water to the depth of several inches. I stopped short, full of alarm and irresolute what to do. It was evident that a thaw had already commenced, and as I well knew with what rapidity the ice broke up when once affected by a change of temperature, I became alive to the dangers of my situation, and almost lost thought of moving from the spot on which I stood.

The weather had grown calm and hazy, and the sky was very black and lowering. Large flakes of snow soon began to fall languidly and perpendicularly through the air; and after a little time these were accompanied by a thick shower of sleet rain, which gradually became so dense that I could not discern the shore. I strained my eyes to catch a glance of some living object, but a dreary and motionless expanse stretched on every side, and the appalling silence that prevailed was sometimes interrupted by the receding cries of the wounded bird. All nature seemed to be fearfully awaiting some terrible event. I listened in fearful suspense to hear. I soon distinguished a distant thundering noise, which gradually became stronger, and appeared to approach the place where I stood. Repeated explosions and hollow murmurs of irregular loudness were succeeded by a tremendous sound like that of rocks bursting asunder. The ice trembled beneath my feet, and the next moment it was disunited by a vast chasm, which opened itself within a few yards of me. The water of the lake rushed upwards through the gap with foaming fury, and began to flood the surface all round.

I started backwards, and ran, as I conceived, towards the shore; but my progress was soon stopped by one of those weak parts of the ice called air holes.—While walking cautiously around it, my mind grew somewhat composed, and I resolved not to advance any further, until I had fixed upon some way of regulating my course, but I found this to be impossible. I vainly endeavored to discern land, and the moaning of the wind among the distant forests alone indicated that there was not any at all near me. Strong and irregularly as I was loaded with snow and sleet, swept wildly along, involving every thing in obscurity, and bewildering my steps with malignant influence. I sometimes fancied I saw the spot where our post was situated, and even the trees and houses upon it; but the next moment a gust of wind would whirl away the fantastic-shaped fogs that had produced the agreeable illusion, and reduced me to motionless despair. I fired my gun repeatedly, in hope that the report would bring some one to my assistance; however, the shore acknowledged by feeble echoes, that the sound had reached them.

The storm increased in violence, and at intervals the sound of the ice breaking up rolled upon my ear like distant thunder, and seemed to utter appalling threats. Alarm and fatigue made me dizzy, and I threw down my gun and rushed forward to the face of the drifting showers, which were now so thick as to affect my respiration.—I fled away or remained on the spot I felt as one would do if forced by some persecuting fiend to range over the surface of a black and shoreless ocean, and aware that, whenever his tormentor withdrew his sustaining power, he would sink down and be suffocated among the billows that struggled beneath him.

At last, night came on and, exhausted by a fatigue and mental excitement, I wrapped myself in my cloak and lay down upon the ice. It was so dark that I could not